

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe Brings You News From Sacramento

February 28, 2002

From Headache to Hot Spot – The San Diego River

San Diego is known for its great weather, beautiful beaches, and local attractions. Yet, something that could be one of our greatest assets, the San Diego River, hardly shows on anyone's radar –and when it does, visions of flooding and pollution abound! The river needs to be restored and preserved. This river, which runs from Julian to Ocean Beach, has the potential to be to San Diego what the Potomac River is to Washington, D.C. or the Hudson River is to New York City. Last week I introduced a bill (AB 2156) to establish a conservancy for the San Diego River. If passed, the conservancy, consisting of state and local elected officials, would oversee the land management of the river for the purpose of conservation, preservation and enhancement –working to turn it into an outdoor destination San Diegans can be proud of! And if Proposition 40 passes, we will have a terrific opportunity to tap into millions of dollars of funding.

A Facelift for Older Neighborhoods

For those of you who live in the older parts of San Diego and have visited newer suburban areas, you know what we're missing: new sidewalks, well lit roads, marked bike trails, medians *with plants in them*. Don't we deserve a smooth walk on our way to the bus stop? I'm working on legislation to secure \$6 billion to improve older neighborhood infrastructure across the state. This money would go towards the rehabilitation and construction of city streets, benches, fountains, lighting, storm drains, urban trails and more –the "little things" that make up the face of a city. I'll keep you posted on my bill, AB 1927.

March 1st is "Read Across America Day"

On March 1st, schools, libraries, and bookstores will be participating in "Read Across America Day" –including our San Diego district office. To promote reading, one of our district representatives, along with an interpreter, will be reading to a 4th grade class of hearing-impaired students. So celebrate "Read Across America Day" and Dr. Suess's birthday (March 2nd) by reading to the children in your life on March 1st!

Budget News

You've heard the talk: California's budget is in need of help. We must move quickly to set our fiscal house in order. We've already made big strides by cutting spending for this year by \$2 billion. Balancing next years' budget will be a painful process, but these cuts will help. Our job is to see that the cuts are fair, while attempting to protect our schools, the social safety net and public health. I'm confident that, when all is said and done, we'll make responsible choices to serve the needs of Californians.

March 5th is Election Day

Here we are again, days away from the Primary Election. Before punching out that chad at your polling place, look in your voter guide to learn more about propositions and candidates.

If you're unable to make it to the polls on Election Day, the Registrar's Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, March 2-3. You can receive, vote and cast your ballot during these hours.

If you need assistance in finding additional information on any proposition, please call my office at 619-294-7600.